

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH MARCH 2016 AT 7:30PM AT HUNTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr G Thomas in the Chair, Cllrs R Sawtell, D Heaton, S Wyles, R Porter, T Stanbridge and A Trought and Mrs S Goodwin, Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE: Two members of the public were in attendance until Item 9.6. One member of the public entered during Item 4 and left after Item 9.8. PCSO Judges entered during Item 7.4 and left after Item 9.8.

1. APOLOGIES

Borough Cllrs B Mortimer and R Webb had sent their apologies.

2. FILMING AND RECORDING

No members of the public expressed a wish to film, record or photograph the meeting.

3. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

3.1 Declaration of Interests

There were no councillor declarations.

3.2 Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

4. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19TH JANUARY 2016 & EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23RD FEBRUARY 2016

The minutes of the meetings on 19th January 2016 and 23rd February 2016 had been previously distributed. The Chairman signed off the official copy of the 23rd February minutes and Cllr Sawtell signed off the official copy of the 19th January 2016 minutes, as he had chaired that meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA

Item 12.5 – The parish precept requirement was submitted to MBC.

6. POLICE BUSINESS

The Chairman read out the following crime report:

18/01/16 Hunton Village Hall - theft of stone chippings

20/01/16 East Street – burglary other than dwelling - two quad bikes and one push bike

22/02/16 West Street – burglary other than dwelling – attempted theft of oil

12/03/16 East Street – Theft of garden ornaments

Cllr Wyles stated that a splitter port could be purchased to allow footage from the CCTV system to be copied to a memory stick. Members **Agreed** that Cllr Wyles should obtain a quotation and email Members for their approval as it is likely to be inexpensive. **ACTION: CLLR WYLES** A secure cupboard will be organised to store the monitor to which Cllr Wyles, through Huntonwatch, will have access.

Cllr Wyles reported that a couple of bouquets had gone missing at an event at the Village Hall the previous weekend and the CCTV footage had been reviewed.

PCSO Judges commented that crime in Hunton is less than that in the surrounding villages.

There are 3-4 incidents in other villages each week. PCSO Judges has regular communication with the Community Warden, Adam McKinley. Cllr Sawtell felt it would be useful for the

residents of the alms houses to have the Community Warden's contact details.

7. LOCAL COMMUNITY

7.1 King George V Playing Field

The Chairman of the King George V Playing Field Management Committee, Danny Peacock, reported on the last meeting held on 9th March:

No action will be taken regarding the moles on the field until spring.

A date is to be arranged to deal with the minor issues highlighted in the annual play area inspection report. Melvin Ward will be replacing the slide platform and Robert Cox will be asked to tidy the play area and car park at the end of March.

There is £3,202 remaining in funds. A quotation is to be obtained for a new pedestrian gate.

The Committee has agreed to fund one third of the cost of installing the defibrillator cabinet.

The contribution to the Village Hall drainage costs for 2015 will be £345.

Robert Cox will be asked for a quote to cut the beech hedge back near the Bowls Club at the end of the cricket season.

The drainage from the cricket pavilion will be flushed though before the season starts.

The Committee agreed to renew the Trustee Indemnity insurance with AON.

HWCC and the Bowls Club have signed an agreement which details how electricity costs will be calculated and apportioned between the two clubs.

HWCC has been given verbal agreement from the ECB for a £3,500 grant for covers.

The Committee will obtain play equipment catalogues to provide ideas for improvements to the play area should any grant funding opportunities arise.

7.2 New Cricket Pavilion

Simon Taylor of HWCC was unable to attend the meeting, but had provided the following update:

Funding from the ECB/Jewson's Privilege Account Scheme has been used to purchase the timber sub frame for the veranda decking and associated items. The sub frame has been assembled and additional work on the decking will be carried out in the coming week. The cost of the decking was £323 plus VAT, the posts and concrete are likely to cost £150 and balustrades on the front of the decking should be approximately £100.

The only other costs to be incurred are on the changing room benches and coat hook rails.

Funding of £3,500 has been secured for a full set of wicket covers, which will enhance playing conditions, help ensure more games are played and increase participation.

A grand opening of the pavilion will take place on Sunday 22nd May 2016.

7.3 Hunton Village Hall Committee

Cllr Trought stated that there was nothing further to report since the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 23rd February, which had been used to discuss the hire of the Village Hall, covering the cost and priority of community events. The next meeting of the Village Hall Committee will be held in April.

Members discussed whether the hall was free to hire for the pantomime this year. Cllrs Heaton and Trought agreed to find out the terms of the existing agreement from Mike Summersgill.

ACTION: CLLRS HEATON & TROUGHT

7.4 Hunton Primary School

The Chair of Governors, Herschel Santineer, was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr Santineer has agreed that Cllr Wyles can have a 15 minute slot at the next Governors Meeting to discuss four issues: moving the school sign; the water flooding Bishops Lane; organising representatives of the School Council (pupils) to attend a Parish Council meeting; and organising members of the Parish Council to answer pupils' questions at the school. It was agreed that the last two points be held in abeyance until the new Parish Council is in place following the Parish Council election on 5th May.

Cllr Wyles and Mr Santineer had been in discussion about the sign. The cost of moving the sign

is likely to be an issue and the school may require some help with the labour. A suggested point of relocation is up towards the telephone exchange where it is not opposite any houses. The planning application for the sign has been deferred for KCC officers to speak with members of the Parish Council and the school.

It is strongly indicative that the water which floods Bishops Lane is emanating from a soakaway put in place when the school hall was built or possibly from a natural watercourse which has been diverted. Cllr Porter is certain that the problem is that the soakaway is far too small. Cllr Trought agreed to attend the meeting at the school with Cllr Wyles.

8. COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

8.1 County Councillor

County Cllr Stockell was unable to attend the meeting.

8.2 Borough Councillors

Borough Cllrs Wilson, Mortimer and Webb were unable to attend the meeting.

9. PARISH COUNCILLORS

9.1 Liaison with External Bodies

Cllr Sawtell has not had any involvement in any KALC Maidstone Area Committee meetings recently.

9.2 Footpaths and Ditches

Cllr Heaton reported:

Chippings have been purchased to fill the holes in the permissive footpath which will be laid and sprayed.

ACTION: CLLR HEATON

The Land Registry will need to be used to find the address of the owner of the land between the recreation ground and Lughorse Lane in order to make contact regarding right of way for a footpath to extend the permissive footpath from the Village Hall to Lughorse Lane.

ACTION: CLLR HEATON/CLERK

The road recently flooded temporarily near the Gudgeon due to a large volume of rain in a short period of time, but then reduced quickly. It is possible that the culvert is not big enough for the volume of water, but it may be a case of accepting this situation in periods of high rain.

9.3 Highways

Cllr Porter reported:

A serious pothole on West Street has been reported to Kent Highways.

The verge near the school has been eroded by traffic; also reported to Kent Highways.

KCC are to visit East Street to look at the flooding issue.

MBC has cleared the drains outside the alms houses, but they are now blocked again as they cannot cope with the water coming from the school soakaway.

Kent Highways closed Hunton Hill recently to fill potholes.

Cllr Stanbridge commented that the new position of the bus stop is far safer than the old one and is much appreciated by parents.

9.4 Speedwatch

Cllr Wyles reported:

Since the last meeting there had been three attempts at Speedwatch exercises. The first two had to be abandoned due to the weather, but the third took place on 14th March. Of 51 vehicles seen only one was recorded, travelling at 36mph. The trend of speeding vehicles is remaining constant, with little change.

Another exercise will take place on 24th March which PCSO Judges will also attend if possible.

Hunton Speedwatch currently has Yalding's Speedwatch equipment on loan, which means that a

team of 7 can go out and measure the speeds of vehicles from both directions. The team will be able to see from this exercise whether it is a viable approach for the future.

9.5 Huntonwatch

Cllr Wyles reported:

On Thursday evenings for the last few weeks, cars have been seen parked with their headlights on between 7:30pm and 9:30pm. It has been reported on 101 and a uniformed officer has been asked to pass by on Thursday evenings to keep an eye on the situation.

Huntonwatch has no new members.

There is an increasing number of scams going around; Huntonwatch sends out notifications to members.

9.6 Hunton Parish Plan

Cllr Trought reported:

The Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee met last month. In future the Committee will not meet as often as before and the next meeting will be in September.

9.7 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Trought reported:

Once the new Parish Council has been elected in May, consideration will again be given to the Neighbourhood Plan.

9.8 Communication & Events

Cllr Trought reported:

26th March - there will be a Pop-up Shop from 9am to 11am outside the church. The Easter event is generally well attended.

31st March, 1st April, 2nd April – the Aladdin pantomime will be performed at the Village Hall.

16th April – The Runaways band will be playing at the Village Hall.

23rd April – St Georges Day – there will be a village walk followed by lunch at the Village Club. Fundraising will take place for the Club and the Gardening Club.

18th June – the Village Fete will be held. All volunteers are welcome.

10th July - there will be a Pop-up Shop in the afternoon, hosted by Sue and Steve Wyles in their garden. Cream teas will be served. This is a ticketed event with funds going to the Gardening Club Community Orchard, with a view to purchasing a seat for the orchard.

24th September - a cider festival will be held in the Community Orchard, which will include an evening barbecue. The event is being organised by the Village Club and Liz Ridgeway and will incorporate use of the new cricket pavilion as well as the orchard.

The Village Club is also holding an event to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday

9.9 Planning Issues and Consultations

Cllr Thomas reported:

A response has been sent in to the MBC Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation. The Plan has upset many parishes as MBC has not listened to concerns. The Plan aims to increase the number of houses in the borough by 30%. MBC is also trying to reopen development at Junction 8 of the M20. The employment strategy does not recognise that the borough of Maidstone actually ends near Maidstone hospital. MBC does not talk to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and has also ignored the report submitted by the KALC Maidstone Area Committee. KCC does not agree with the Integrated Transport Strategy. An increase of 30% in the number of houses will lead to a 30% (at least) increase in population and many more cars on the roads. MBC suggests using buses, cycling and walking as a solution.

The KALC Planning Conference attended was very good.

The keynote speaker at the KALC Chairman's Conference was Greg Clarke who spoke very positively about neighbourhood plans and thought all parishes should have one. The conference was very good.

9.10 Utilities

Cllr Stanbridge reported:

Central government is being monitored for any changes in policy on broadband. If any arise they will be reported back to the Parish Council.

10. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

10.1 Flooding

Cllr Wyles reported that an informal discussion had taken place with the Yalding Flood Group, which will propose to Yalding Parish Council that Hunton, Laddingford and Collier Street are all brought into the group. A group covering more parishes will add weight to responses to proposals from the Environment Agency (EA) and liaison with the EA in general.

The Yalding Flood Group has met with the EA several times. The Leigh Barrier was constructed due to an act of Parliament, which only empowers the EA to protect Tonbridge and Hildenborough. The EA is pushing hard for flood mitigation groups to put their trust them.

A proposal has been tabled for KCC, MBC and the EA to look at the feasibility of increasing the storage area for the Leigh Barrier. Nothing has been done as yet and KCC does not have the available funds to match the government funding. The EA has also been asked to outline action taken since the flooding in 2013, but there has been no response and nothing has been done.

Cllr Heaton pointed out that the Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board supports the drainage of agricultural land, which is in contrast to the stance of the EA. Cllr Wyles **Agreed** to look into this with the Flood Group.

ACTION: CLLR WYLES

10.2 Parish Council Election

The Parish Council election will take place in May 2016. All Members, other than Cllr Porter, indicated that they would be standing for election to the Parish Council. Nomination papers have been requested by two additional parishioners to date.

10.3 Annual Parish Meeting

Members **Agreed** the invitation list and format of the Annual Parish Meeting, to be held on 16th May 2016. Cllr Wyles pointed out that the date of the next Parish Council meeting on 10th May would need to be changed due to the Parish Council election, meaning that the Annual Parish Meeting date would also need to be altered. Members **Agreed** that the new date for the Parish Council meeting would be 17th May and the Annual Parish Meeting will be changed to 23rd May.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllrs Trought and Wyles **Agreed** to place an article in the Hunton Herald and Kent Messenger to explain the purpose of the meeting and encourage parishioners to attend.

ACTION: CLLRS TROUGHT & WYLES

Members **Agreed** that Cllr Trought could purchase three A1 size boards to advertise the meeting to the village.

ACTION: CLLR TROUGHT

10.4 The Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons

The Queen celebrates her 90th birthday on 21st April 2016 and parish councils can take part in the celebrations by lighting a beacon on that evening. Members **Agreed** that, as the Village Club is already holding an event, a beacon lighting event would not be organised.

10.5 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received a commemorative medal for the Queen's 90th birthday.

11. CONSULTATIONS

11.1 DCLG – Implementation of Planning Changes: Technical Consultation

The DCLG is consulting on the detail of proposed changes to Neighbourhood Planning,

including: the criteria for proposed changes to area designation; the proposed time periods for local planning authorities to take key decisions; the procedures to be followed when the Secretary of State chooses to intervene in sending a plan or Order to referendum; and a new way for neighbourhood forums to better engage in local planning.

Cllr Thomas **Agreed** to provide a response to the consultation.

12. FINANCE

12.1 Budget Monitoring Report

The Budget Monitoring Report to 29th February 2016 was **Noted**.

Members **Agreed** that a £1,000 grant towards the running costs of the Village Hall should be incorporated into the 2016/17 budget, as agreed at the Extraordinary Meeting on 23rd February 2016.

12.2 Income Received

Members **Noted** the following income received since the last meeting:

Village Hall Committee – FIT receipt	£374.15
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Cllr Trought reviewed and signed the bank reconciliation.

12.3 Payments Made

Members **Approved** the following payments made since the last meeting:

SO – Sharon Goodwin – Salary & office allowance – January	£427.73
SO – Sharon Goodwin – Salary & office allowance – February	£427.73

12.4 Cheques for Signature

Members **Agreed** that the following payments be approved and the cheques were signed by Cllrs Porter and Stanbridge:

300124 – MBC – Bin emptying (KGV)	£74.88
300125 – ACRK – Annual membership subscription	£50.00
300126 – Steve Jones – Reimbursement for sundry materials for new cricket pavilion	£77.89
300127 – Sharon Goodwin – Travel expenses/postage/stationery	£50.11
300128 – NALC – LCR annual subscription	£17.00
300129 – MBC – Bin emptying (KGV)	£149.76
300130 – Mike Summersgill – Mileage expenses for Tree & Pond Warden course	£18.00
300131 – AON UK Limited – Trustees Indemnity insurance (KGV)	£165.04

12.5 External Audit for Smaller Authorities

The Audit Commission ceased to exist on 1st April 2015 and a new company, Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited (SAAA), has been created to take over the appointment of external auditors and setting of audit fees for smaller authorities from 2017. SMAA will formally appoint external auditors on behalf of parish councils for a five-year period from financial year 2017/18. This will happen automatically unless parish councils decide to opt out and set up an independent audit panel to procure external audit itself. The deadline to opt out is 31st March 2016. All bodies will have to complete and publish an annual financial return whether opted in or out.

Members **Agreed** not to opt out of the SMAA arrangements.

12.6 Parish Services Scheme

Members **Approved** the Parish Services Scheme 2015/16 year end certificate and it was signed by the Chairman.

Members **Approved** the funding agreement for the Parish Services Scheme from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 and it was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

12.7 Defibrillator

The cost of fitting the defibrillator (obtained by the Pre-school) to the outside of the Village Hall is £195 plus VAT (£234). The Playing Field Committee has agreed to contribute a third of the cost. Members **Agreed** that the Parish Council should also contribute one third.

The defibrillator may be covered under the Village Hall insurance; this is still to be clarified.

Members **Agreed** that a quotation should be obtained from the Parish Council's insurer.

ACTION: CLERK

12.8 Yalding Parish Playscheme 2016

Members considered a request from Yalding Parish Council for a small donation towards the 2016 Playscheme. Members **Agreed** that a contribution of £100 should be made under s137 expenditure.

ACTION: CLERK

12.9 KCPFA 90th Anniversary Appeal

The Kent County Playing Fields Association is asking all Members of the charity, of which Hunton Parish Council is one, to make a donation. Members **Agreed** that a donation of £50 should be made under s137 expenditure.

ACTION: CLERK

13. PLANNING

13.1 Planning Application

The following planning application was considered and recommendation made:

13.1.1 Land at South End of Water Lane – 16/501603/FULL

Erection of outdoor menage.

Parish Council recommendation: No objection, subject to avoiding the footpath.

13.2 Planning Decisions

No planning decisions have been reported since the last Planning meeting.

13.3 Green Barn, Water Lane

Cllr Wyles reported that at least two, possibly three, extra mobile homes have been moved on to the site. Members **Agreed** that the situation should be reported to MBC Planning Enforcement for investigation.

ACTION: CLERK

13.4 Right to Appeal Planning Decisions

NALC is urging parish councils to sign an online petition calling on government to give parish and town councils the right to appeal planning decisions to the Planning Inspectorate.

Members **Agreed** that the petition should be signed.

ACTION: CLERK

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council Meeting is on **Tuesday 17th May 2016** at Hunton Village Hall.

As this would be Cllr Porter's last full council meeting Cllr Wyles proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Porter for all his hard work as parish councillor. All Members wholeheartedly agreed and thanked Cllr Porter.

There being no further matters to be discussed the meeting closed at 10:20pm.